Our Aim for **Community**
A Park that helps people improve their wellbeing

Why do we think it is important?

- The Park is first and foremost a place of enjoyment; a resource for people to use and take pleasure from. It is also an area that can deliver positive benefits to a diverse range of individuals and communities.
- Such enhanced wellbeing can have encouraging results on individual, social and community behaviour:
  - reducing physical and mental problems
  - building stronger community relationships
  - reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
  - developing skills, knowledge and local pride.

In this section:

- **Objective 4.1 – Health**
  Facilitate people pursuing healthy lifestyles

- **Objective 4.2 – Arts**
  Provide opportunities to experience and participate in the arts

- **Objective 4.3 – Events**
  Support events that attract visitors from across the region

- **Objective 4.4 – Learning**
  Provide opportunities for learning

- **Objective 4.5 – Volunteering**
  Provide volunteering opportunities
Community
Objective 4.1 – Health
Facilitate people pursuing healthy lifestyles

Where are we now?
The benefits to public health associated with regular outdoor recreation are well recognised. Active use of open spaces, whether through sport, learning, or general use, is known to benefit health and well being, alleviate stress and psychological disorders, and improve the environmental quality of daily life.

Large parts of the surrounding community have high levels of deprivation, most notably to the south of the Park. The close proximity of the Park to these areas is of significant advantage. The Regional Park provides accessible open space for these communities, with facilities and venues that can help contribute to better health and wellbeing.

Recreational activities such as walking, cycling, running and play are possible throughout the Park, while specialist sports facilities such as ice skating, canoeing, horse riding and athletics are also available. Throughout the year a programme of community based events take place, from the 10km fun-run, to the elite sporting events provided at LVAC.

Boasting such facilities and events, the Park is a place for a diverse community to meet, have fun, get fit and lead a healthier lifestyle.

What do we want to achieve?
A range of programmes and activities to promote and encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyle choices.

To be supported by an infrastructure, facilities, events and open spaces that will attract regular use.
How will we deliver?

On our estate

We will

• Ensure the features, facilities and programmes on offer encourage people to access a range of health benefits, including:
  • Sports and recreation opportunities – to enable people of all ages and abilities to take part in physical exercise.
  • Access to nature opportunities – to enable people to interact with and experience the natural world.
  • Landscape quality – to enable people to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Park.
  • Arts, events, learning and volunteering opportunities.
  • Environmental quality – to help to mitigate health problems associated with pollution and global warming.

Working with others

We will

• Work with partners to actively promote and encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyle choices by using the Park. We will achieve this by:
  • Establishing active partnerships with Primary Care Trusts and local authority partnerships, to promote the range of potential health benefits offered by the Park.
  • Developing active partnerships with a range of existing and future health initiatives and programmes, such as Walking the Way to Health and Walk to School and recent proposals to utilise waterways and water bodies as 'blue gyms' to help provide opportunities to improve people's health and well-being.
  • Explore opportunities to strengthen the link between the Authority programmes and a healthy lifestyle. This will include:
    • Sports and recreation participation and development.
    • Events.
    • Volunteers.
    • Learning and skills.
  • Develop a targeted branding and marketing strategy for the Park to highlight the range of activities on offer and the resulting benefits to health.
Community

Objective 4.2 – Arts
Provide opportunities to experience and participate in the arts

Where are we now?
The Park has established itself as a site for both temporary and permanent arts activities, events and cultural projects; with a number of venues, open spaces and built facilities that are used for arts activities on a permanent and temporary basis.

There are a number of art works located throughout the Park, many developed through collaborations between artists, local schools and communities. A variety of events are held in the Park, both on and off water, from the one-off Inland Waterways Festival to regular outdoor theatre, concert and circus performances.
Community
Art Installations and Venues
Baseline

Legend

- Lee Valley Regional Park boundary.
- LVRP Public Artwork.
- Existing art venues outside the Park other owner/operator.
- LVRPA Land Ownership.
- Other Land Ownership.
What do we want to achieve?
A broad range of opportunities to experience or participate in the arts in support of our wider aims and objectives.

To create interest and encourage greater use of the Park.

We believe there are four main areas that will help us to achieve this:

1. Integration of the arts
   We want to integrate a range of opportunities for the community to experience or participate in the arts as part of the development and management of the Park.

2. Performing arts
   We want the Park to provide a range of space and facilities for the performing arts, and to help stage events that have a strong regional appeal to the community.

3. Works of art
   We want to encourage both temporary and permanent art installations throughout the Park, focusing on a small number of high quality, regionally significant works.

4. Participation in the arts
   We want the Park to provide a range of facilities and programmes for artists and the general public to participate creatively. We want to focus on delivering facilities, programmes, events, and works of art that draw participants from across the region.

How will we deliver?

On our estate
We will

- Ensure opportunities exist to experience and participate in the arts, and for these to be integral to the ongoing development and management of our estate (particularly in the design and development of new facilities and features).
- Identify and facilitate venues for performing arts and exhibitions.
- Support our partners to help provide arts events and activities, including sponsorship of regional programmes.
- Commission new art works where appropriate.

Working with others
We will

- Work with partners to facilitate and coordinate joint programmes, marketing and promotion of the arts in the Park.
- Explore opportunities to establish mutually beneficial partnerships with other arts venues, institutions and organisations.
Community
Objective 4.3 – Events
Support events that attract visitors from across the region

Where are we now?
Events relate to a broad range of activities that bring people together at a set time and place for a common purpose. The Park offers a number of venues and sites that can accommodate a myriad of such events from sporting and community fixtures, to arts and exhibitions, private functions and even site hire for filming.

Each year we host a programme of over 70 events at a variety of locations across the Park. The Park is also frequently used for both film and television locations.
Community
Events Baseline

Legend
- Lee Valley Regional Park boundary.
- Existing events facility LVRPA owned/operated.
- Existing events facility other owner/operator.
- LVRPA Land Ownership.
- Other Land Ownership.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. © Crown Copyright Reserved Licence Number: LA08911L
What do we want to achieve?
To offer high quality, attractive event venues and sites, together with a supporting infrastructure. This will include venues within our own estate and those accessible on other people’s land.

To use events to attract new visitors, and to encourage visitors to explore new areas and facilities.

To offer an expanded and enhanced event venue infrastructure for hire (both commercial and community based).

To develop a coordinated Park programme of public, private, community and commercial events.

To continue hosting an event programme on our estate that relates to our wider aims and objectives.

How will we deliver?
On our estate
We will
• Prepare an Event Capacity Strategy that will identify the range of potential venues within the Park. This will provide a coordinated framework for the ongoing enhancement, development and marketing of the Park as a venue for events.
• Ensure new built facilities provide appropriate event capacity (e.g. meeting rooms, outdoor space etc).
• Enhance existing built facilities where possible to provide suitable event capacity.
• Develop appropriate infrastructure at a range of outdoor sites to facilitate the hosting of outdoor events.

Working with others
We will
• Encourage and facilitate partners to use the Park as a venue for a range of events.
• Work with our partners to draw together a comprehensive and coordinated Park wide events programme.
Community
Events Proposals

Legend

- Lee Valley Regional Park boundary.
- Enhanced existing events facility LVRPA owned/operated.
- Proposed events facility LVRPA owned/operated.
- Enhanced existing events facility other owner/operator.
- Proposed events facility other owner/operator.
- Area of opportunity for enhanced programme of events.
- LVRPA Land Ownership.
- Other Land Ownership.
Community

Objective 4.4 – Learning
Provide opportunities for learning

Where are we now?
The Park currently offers a range of opportunities for learning. These can support local education authorities. There are currently four main areas of activity in the Park:

1. Education programmes
Our Youth and Schools Service provide a range of environmental and heritage education programmes. These are designed to help meet the requirements of the National Curriculum, and are targeted at primary and secondary schools, as well as those with special needs.

Other education programmes are delivered through our Sports Development teams and more informal learning opportunities offered through guided walks, events, on site interpretation and information literature.

2. Partnerships with other educational institutions and organisations
A number of educational institutions and organisations currently work in partnership with us to deliver learning opportunities within the Park. These include various sports national governing bodies, the Countryside Foundation for Education, and the National Veterinary College.

3. Vocational training
We deliver a small range of vocational training opportunities through the facilities and open spaces within the Park.

4. Informal learning opportunities
The Park provides a range of interpretation signage as well as printed and web based information about the features and facilities on offer. These all have a broad focus on biodiversity and heritage.
Community
Education Baseline

Legend

Lee Valley Regional Park boundary.

Existing sites with facilities that offer opportunities for learning.
LVRPA owned/operated.

Existing sites with facilities that offer opportunities for learning.
Other owner/operator.

LVRPA Land Ownership.

Other Land Ownership.

External Education Sites.
What do we want to achieve?
We want learning to become an integral part of the Park experience.

To become a significant activity in its own right, one that encourages people to visit.

For the Park to become a venue for a wide range of learning opportunities.

To develop an appropriate infrastructure throughout the Park to support learning opportunities.

To enhance and expand our own learning programmes.

For other partners and organisations to make full use of the Park as a venue for learning.

How will we deliver?

On our estate
We will

• Prepare a Learning Strategy that will identify the range of potential opportunities within the Park. This will provide the coordinated framework for the ongoing enhancement, development and marketing of learning in the Park.

• Ensure appropriate venues and facilities for learning activities are developed.

• Continue to expand and enhance our Youth and Schools Service. This will include:
  • Expanding our programme to encompass learning opportunities for all.
  • Targeting greater participation from across the region.

• Continue to enhance accommodation opportunities within the Park, to support extended learning programmes and visits from across the region.

• Continue to expand and enhance the range of vocational training opportunities.

• Provide a high quality integrated network of information throughout Park.

• Continue to develop published and web based information that will provide more comprehensive learning opportunities.

• Identify learning opportunities to inform visitors about wider environmental issues such as climate change and sustainable development.

Working with others
We will

• Continue to build on existing partnerships with local authorities, educational institutions and organisations.

• Establish further partnerships where the Park facilities, operations and development projects can contribute to learning opportunities.

• Work with these partners to ensure existing or future learning programmes, initiatives or facilities form a complementary and coordinated part of the Park wide learning offer.
Community
Education Proposals

Legend

Lee Valley Regional Park boundary.

Enhanced existing sites with facilities that offer opportunities for learning LVRPA owned/operated.

Proposed sites with facilities that offer opportunities for learning LVRPA owned/operated.

Enhanced existing sites with facilities that offer opportunities for learning Other owner/operated.

Proposed sites with facilities that offer opportunities for learning other owner/operated.

Area of opportunity to enhance education offer.

LVRPA Land Ownership.

Other Land Ownership.

External Education Sites.
Where are we now?
Volunteering is about taking part in an activity, without payment, often for the benefit of others, the community and the environment. Here at the Park, volunteering encourages involvement and participation: providing skills, improving wellbeing, and generating goodwill within the region.

There are currently four main areas of activity in the Park:

1. Volunteers managed by us
Our volunteer programme enables people to contribute their time and effort to a range of initiatives within the Park.

2. Corporate volunteering
We also provide opportunities for external organisations to undertake group volunteering activities that can help team-building exercises and to meet their corporate social responsibility targets.

3. External voluntary sector organisations within the Park
This voluntary sector (often referred to as the charity sector or third sector) includes a broad range of charity organisations that operate in the Park, such as the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, sports clubs, and community payback groups.

4. Friends of the Park
Friends of the Park are groups, operating from specific sites, which encourage people to become involved in the management of the Park.
What do we want to achieve?
To become a venue for a broad range of volunteering activities.
To develop an appropriate infrastructure throughout the Park to support volunteering opportunities.
To continue to enhance and expand the current offer. This will include:
- Our volunteer programme
- Opportunities for the corporate sector volunteering
- Opportunities for the wider voluntary sector organisations
- Friends of Groups

How will we deliver?
On our estate
We will
- Implement an ongoing incremental increase of our volunteer programme, both in numbers of participants taking part, and in the range of task types and locations within the Park.
- Continue to target ‘hard to reach’ groups with our volunteer programme (i.e. groups within the community who may not typically be users of the Park, or who often take part in volunteering activities).
- Implement a ‘Friends of Groups’ programme for specific sites throughout the Park and for the Lee Valley Regional Park as a whole.

- Develop our corporate volunteer offer, to create stronger partnership relationships with businesses, and to assist in the delivery of their corporate social responsibility aims.
- Develop volunteer support nodes within our primary visitor facilities. These will provide changing facilities, food and drink, meeting/teaching space and tool storage.
- Explore the commercial sponsorship opportunities to provide mobile toilets and welfare facilities.

Working with others
We will
- Develop closer volunteering initiatives with other voluntary sector organisations to provide joint opportunities within our estate. This will include the Olympic Volunteer programme.
- Work in partnership with other landowners to encourage their participation in volunteer programmes and initiatives.
Community
Volunteers Proposals

Legend

- Lee Valley Regional Park boundary.
- Sites of activity for LVRPA volunteers.
- Proposed sites of activity for LVRPA volunteers.
- Sites of activity for other volunteer organisations.
- Proposed sites of activity for other volunteer organisations.
- Friends of Group.
- Areas of opportunity to enhance volunteer opportunities.
- LVRPA Land Ownership.
- Other Land Ownership.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office. Unauthorised reproduction侵权 Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. © Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence Number: LA 08911L.